SBARA
SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

# The Ground Plane

SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION / ARRL MEMBER CLUB SINCE 1974

Volume I Edition 10 October, 2000

## Presidents Message

**By Rudi Weideman—WA6RW**

To most people, October means Halloween pumpkins and goblins. For SBARA it also means Pacificon and Board nominations!

Pacificon is a great show and an important fund-raiser for SBARA. It helps ensure we can plan lots of exciting Club events in the future. This year Harry Lau (KF6QAK) is the 'Snack Bar Marshall' and of course Syd Furman (W6QWK) coordinates the Swap Meet. They need your help to staff the event, so please volunteer a few hours if you can. The bonus is a built-in excuse to cruise the show later!

The nominations for the Leadership Team 2001 will be held at the October monthly meeting. It's VERY VERY important that you participate in this process. To plan and achieve all our activity goals takes a complete team of Board members and appointees, each playing an important role in making the Club fun. If you, or someone you know, has interest in helping lead SBARA next year, please contact one of the 3 members of the nominating committee…

Joann Wood (WV6RQT), Syd Furman (W6QWK) and James Lee (N1DDK). Remember, you don't need to be an 'old timer' or an 'extra class' operator to contribute. Just have a zeal for ham radio and commit some time over the year to keep SBARA a leading Bay Area club.

Elections will then be held during the November meeting. Let's get a good group of people to lead the Club next year!

See you all at the next meeting!

73s.....DE.....Rudi - WA6RW (formerly KF6RLQ)

## October Program

Announcing Home Brew Night At SBARA

Here is your chance to show off your own home built project to the SBARA Membership. Bring all your unusual or Home Brew ham items that you would like to show off to the October 18th SBARA club meeting. Everyone who brings something will get a turn to spend 5 minutes describing their item(s). Help make this evening a fun experience by digging deep into your 'bag' of ham equipment and bring something to share.

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## SBARA September 2000 Workshop
## Build Your Own APRS Tracker Box
**By Tom Chittenden—KF6UIQ**

Not knowing earlier in the week if I would even make it or not, I didn't prepare as much as I should have ahead of time. When I finally figured out I could attend, I thought there was no way I'd be able to put anything together because I wasn't ready. I was shocked and amazed that Jim Wood, you and all the help of the Elmer's there, were able to allow me to progress so far. Although I've still got a few "little details" (and they are very little indeed) to finish up on, I am miles ahead of where I even expected to be. The gentleman who was helping me directly on my right (unfortunately his name escapes me right now, Al? maybe... I'm very bad with names) was extremely patient and assisted me greatly in putting it all together. Whenever I got stuck on one thing, there'd be three or four guys ready willing and able to help me out.

I won't ramble too much here, but just by how smoothly these presentations have been going, it is apparent that a lot of hard work goes into putting these things together. I would like to thank you and Jim for putting on another excellent program just as you've done in the past. I truly enjoy all the classes that I've been able to attend. I don't know what your plans for next year are, but I'd support you in whatever path it takes.

73's

Tom C.
KF6UIQ

## October Club Meeting Event Home Brew Night (cont'd)

Antenna's, go-bags, receivers, transmitters, APRS, GPS, CW keys and Paddles, Power Supplies, ATV, Satellite, Electronic Components and Software are just some ideas. The list is endless.

You do not have to demonstrate your item in operation, you just need to show it off and describe what you like about it or how you made it.

**DON'T FORGET... BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18TH TO THE SBARA MEETING.**

## Upcoming October Workshop

### Attention SBARA Members:

Did you realize the year is almost over?
Do you know that now is your opportunity to help the club next year? The term of the current club officers is almost over, and now is the time o nominate people to continue the leadership next year. Do you know what it takes to be part of the leadership team next year?
It takes eagerness to help, that's all.
If you would like to be a part of the leadership team next year, please contact someone on the nominating Committee and let us know how you would like to help.

Sincerely,

**The SBARA Nominating Committee**
Joann Wood - WV6RQT <joannwd@pacbell.net >
Syd Furman - W6QWK <w6qwk@pacbell.net>
James Lee - N1DDK <n1ddk@arrl.net>

# Newark Communications Volunteers

**By Robin Kinney—KG6DI**

Meeting Minutes from the 9/13/2000 Meeting

- We conducted the final planning for the Newark Days Parade

Late Breaking News
- Through multiple channels within the police department, Police Cadet supervision is aware of the legal issues of using the GMRS frequency as well as the issue of interfering with the private repeater. As the problem appears to be solved in the short term, we will wait for Sgt. Lewis to return from vacation to help solve it in the long term.

Agenda for the October 11th Meeting
- We will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of City Hall.
- Debrief on the Newark Days Parade
  - What worked well?
  - Where can we improve?
- Discussion of the Police Department use of our services for Halloween

# SBARA 2000 Holiday Dinner and Party

**By—William Artelt—WB9YVM**

**Lucia's Italian Restaurant—December 2, 2000**

Come and join us for our annual Holiday Dinner and Party. Lucia's will be our dinner place and the fun begins at **6:30 PM**. A raffle is planned for a Grand Prize, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Cost of the raffle tickets are $5.00. Winner need not be present to win. Do come and enjoy the Holiday festivities!!!

If you have not eaten at Lucia's recently they serve the finest Italian food west of Italy!

Our reservation is for a party of Club Members, Spouses or significant others. You may make your dinner selection from any of these items:

1. Pasta Primavera—fresh veggies sautéed w/garlic, caramelized onion, wine & chicken broth, choice of spaghetti or mostacioli — **$16.00**
2. Canneloni — filled with a mix of cheese, Swiss chard & Italian Sausage—backed in meat sauce — topped w/mozzarella cheese — **$16.00**
3. Lemon Chicken Breast—served with pasta & veggies — **$18.00**
4. Veal Parmigiana—breaded & grilled, topped w/meat sauce & melted mozzarella served w/ pasta — **$23.00**

***Each dinner entry includes a Fresh Salad, French Bread a Beverage of Your Choice Coffee, Tea, or Soda***

Lucia's has a full service bar for your individual purchase. Price of the dinners includes food entrée, soft drink, tax and tip.

***** All monies are due by November 21, 2000 or sooner. *****

# PSK31 Information

**By William Artelt—WB9YVM**

After our September presentation on **PSK31** I investigated and located some Internet resources for those of us that might be interested in building and or configuring a PSK31 station. This would make an excellent project for the winter months. The kit includes all components to get on the air!

A manufacturer of an in-expensive SSB transceiver is a fellow ham on the east coast by the name of Dave Benson NN1G. His company Small Wonder Labs has several kits available including the PSK31. June QST provided an in-depth review of this little rig.

This kit is a 5 watt 20 Meter Transceiver and in kit form sells for $99. There is an optional case and knobs to give it that "finished" look. An assembled, aligned, and tested rig costs $195. Allow 4 weeks for shipping for either the kit of assembled unit. The Small Wonder Labs WebSite address is
URL— http://www.smallwonderlabs.com/

Two good reviews of the PSK31 Rig are located at:
URL—http://home.uchicago.edu/~khopper/n9vv-psk20-review.html
URL—http://www.qsl.net/n0rc/psk31/psk-20_review.html

Another resource for PSK31—Sound Card to Transceiver Interface Diagrams
URL—ttp://www.packetradio.com/psk31.htm

PSK31 Information—
URL—http://www.psk31.com

DigiPan Software—
URL—http://www.members.home.com/hteller/digipan

**Treasurers Report**
By Ted Cameron — N6BFO

| | |
|---|---|
| Total cash assets 8/31/2000: | $2674.58 |
| Income since then: | $ 37.40 |
| Expenses: | $ 214.84 |
| Current balance: | $2497.14 |
| | |
| Projected for October: | |
| Income: | $ 600.00 |
| Expenses: | $ 80.00 |

## Fremont Communications Volunteers

No Report this month. Watch for their report next month in this issue!

## Ham Radio Training

**Watch for Up-Coming Class !**

**To Register**
Please contact Nancy Peterson (KF6HOI) at nfpeterson@bemis.com and provide your name, address, and phone number. All classes are free of charge. (If you don't have access to e-mail, give Doug Stinson (KG6ADR) a call at (510) 353-1272 and he will forward the information.)

## Club Shirts—Where Do I get One?

The new SBARA shirts were shown off by some of the board members. They are available from the Keepsake Factory at NewPark Mall. The shop is on the second level near Mervyns. They cost $28 for S, M, L, XL and $30 for XXL, plus tax. It will probably take about a week to receive the shirt once you

# SBARA 2000 Meeting Program and Workshop Schedule

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **September** | Unleash the Power of Packet with PK32. | "Get Your APRS Tracker Box On-The-Air", Saturday, September 23rd. |
| **October** | Practical Propagation: "HF to UHF" | Getting the Most out of HF. Date and Location to Follow. |
| **November** | Antenna Angst: "Simple Ways to Make Then Work" | Antenna Fest: "A Show and Tell Smorgasbord." |
| **December** | **CHRISTMAS Dinner, Program and Party** | **Lucia's Italian Restaurant — Fremont—6:30PM December 2, 2000** |

# SBARA General Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Elise Ciraolo, KF6TQB, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Rudi Wiedemann WA6RW. Also attending were Vice President Alan Kittrell KE6YKK, Secretary Elise Ciraolo KF6TQB, Treasurer Ted Cameron N6BFO, Program Facilitator Al Rendon WT6K, Newsletter Editor Bill Artelt WB9YVM and 24 members and guests.

Membership Report: Alan Kittrell advised that we now have membership cards available for those members who want them. HRO requires proof of membership before granting discounts, and the membership card will fulfill that requirement.

Future meetings programs/workshops reported by Al Rendon:
September 23rd workshop: Tracker Box/APRS at community center, Jim Wood
October 28th workshop: Getting the Most Out of HF at the American Red Cross in Union City, presenter Rudi Wiedemann
October & November meeting programs: proposed subjects are propagation and antennas, presenters to be determined.

**Organization Reports:**
1. Don KC6IPO reported that the Union City Communications Group had a successful missing persons drill in conjunction with the police department.
2. Elise Ciraolo advised that the American Red Cross radio room is in need of volunteers to maintain it and operate during a disaster. Steve Bassett KQ6VH and Alan Kittrell will help.
3. Jim Wood KE6IVA advised that the Boy Scouts are have a 50K bike ride fund raiser and will need 4 sag wagons w/tracker boxes on Oct 7th in San Jose from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

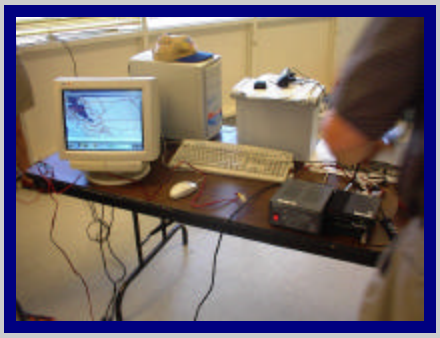
**New Business**
The SBARAsat grant request was presented by Rudi and approved by the membership. The Board of Directors will formalize the grant request procedure.

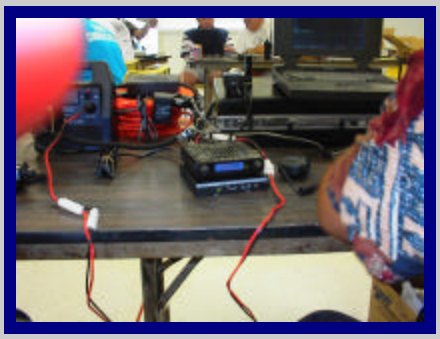
Nomination of officers will take place at the October meeting and elections will be held during the November meeting. The nominating committee consists of Joann Wood WV6RQT, James Lee N1DDK, and Syd Furman W6QWK. They will present a slate of officers and additional nominations will be made from the floor during the meeting. Officers include President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Appointed positions are Program Facilitator, Ground Plane Editor, Web Master, Photographer, Quarter Master, and any other positions the Board requires.

Old Business Harry Lau KF6QAK has agreed to chair the Pacificon snack bar. Contact Harry to volunteer.

TNT Table: James Lee brought a radio, TNC, and home built 10W power supply combination.
Jim Wood displayed a tracker box and a duel band antenna with stand.

# SBARA SEPTEMBER 2000 WORKSHOP
# BUILD YOUR OWN APRS TRACKER BOX — A Photo Journal
## Photos by James Lee, N1DDK





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- 9 DTMF memories
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- Great audio
- CTCSS encode/decode
- Auto repeater

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- 9600 BPS packet ready
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SBARA

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